

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/003,857

Examiner

Christian P. Chace

Applicant(s)

FOX ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after-final amendment filed 10/22/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-16 and 18, now renumbered 2-6, 1, and 7-16, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office action has been filed in response to after-final amendment submitted 22 October 2004. The amendment has been entered. Claims 2-16 and 18 are pending. Claims 2-16 and 18 are allowed, as amended, and hereby renumbered 2-6, 1, and 7-16, respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-16 and 18 are allowed, and hereby renumbered 2-6, 1, and 7-16, respectively.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to independent claim 7, now renumbered 1, in a method of allocating a trace array from a cache memory, wherein the cache memory comprises a directory array, wherein the directory array comprises an address field having a spare bit usable in a trace mode to represent a high order bit of a requested address is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art of record. Claims 2-6 and 8-15, now renumbered 2-14, respectively, depend upon the instant claim and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth supra with respect to same.

With respect to independent claim 16, now renumbered 15, a storage medium encoded with a machine-readable computer program code for allocating a trace array from an original cache memory, said storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, wherein the cache memory comprises a directory array and wherein the directory array comprises an address field having a spare bit

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usable in a trace mode to represent a high order bit of a requested address is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art of record.

With respect to independent claim 18, now renumbered 16, the means-plus-function language of the claim invokes interpretation of the claim under 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph, which essentially requires examiner to look to the specification for the means claimed. Accordingly, examiner looked to the specification, and, in paragraph 34, the disclosed means include a cache memory comprising a directory array, wherein the directory array comprises an address field having a spare bit usable in a trace mode to represent a high order bit of a requested address, which is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art, nor are its equivalents.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

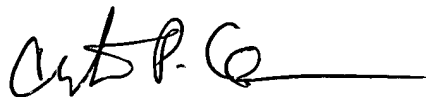
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian P. Chace whose telephone number is 571.272.4190. The examiner can normally be reached on MAXI FLEX.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on 571.272.4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. P. Chace', followed by a horizontal line.

Christian P. Chace
Examiner
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